

Harvest Assembly Receives \$9,970 Grant For Health and Fitness Center Equipment

Harvest Assembly received \$9,970 in a Mock Check ceremony April 22, 2005, at the new facility of the Harvest Assembly Church. The USDA Rural Development Grant funds will be used to purchase health and fitness equipment to benefit the 418 residents of the City of Fair Play area. Harvest Assembly is committed to ensuring the citizens have access to physical exercise classes and ongoing education in both nutrition and healthy lifestyles. The fitness center is scheduled to be open to the public a minimum of 35 hours per week.



Left to Right: Front Row: Vickie Umfleet, Retired Rural Development Area Specialist; Congressman Ike Skelton; Pastor Lyle Shaulis (President); Randy Matheny, Associate Pastor; Patrick Morrow, Field Representative for Senator Bond; Jim Hensley, Deacon; Back Row: John Kraus, Deacon; Nathan Correll, Field Representative for Senator Talent; Jerry Finley, Rural Development Area Director; Matt Shell, Youth Pastor; Berry Bolen, Deacon

In the spirit of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative by President George W. Bush, the Harvest Assembly has in partnership with Rural Development, become the first faith-based organization to receive Community Facility Grant funds in the 13 counties in Southwest Missouri.

Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agricultural Committee, said, "I am very pleased to announce this grant for the citizens of the City of Fair Play. Physical fitness is a key component for a healthy lifestyle and this equipment will offer residents additional opportunities to stay healthy."

Congressman Ike Skelton presented a mock check to Harvest Assembly and said, "Scientific evidence shows that good eating habits and regular exercise are essential to good health. I want to thank the staff of USDA Rural Development for making it possible for the people of Fair Play to have access to the kind of exercise equipment and nutrition education that will help keep community members active and healthy for years to come."

President Lyle Shaulis expressed his appreciation, "It's always been our mission at Harvest Assembly to minister to our community both spiritually and physically. The spiritual disciplines of prayer and studying the Bible, result in spiritual health. The disciplines of exercise, weight training, and a healthy diet result in a more healthy body. We are thankful for the grant monies that have enabled us to provide quality fitness equipment that will help many people in Fair Play reach their own healthy lifestyle goals."

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for the

community.” Branum added, “This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO, 65802, or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov.

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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